

Message Text

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SUBJECT: CISL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONSIDERS REFERENDUM,
INTERNAL PROBLEMS AND POLITICAL/ECONOMIC POLICY

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. CISL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE VOTED TO CENSURE CISL MINORITY FOR TACTICS UTILIZED IN DISSENT. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ALSO PASSED RESOLUTION CALLING FOR SPEEDY RENEWAL OF GOVERNMENT/UNION DIALOGUE ON PRESSING POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ISSUES. ON THE TROUBLESOME DIVORCE REFERENDUM CISL SECGEN STORTI STRESSED THE NEED FOR TRADE UNION NEUTRALITY, A NEUTRALITY HE MAY BE HARD PUT TO PRESERVE. END SUMMARY.

2. OVER PAST WEEK END CISL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DEBATED SEVERAL ISSUES OF IMMEDIATE IMPORTANCE FOR TRADE UNION MOVEMENT. THE DIVORCE REFERENDUM, AN AGONIZING PROBLEM FOR THE PREDOMINANTLY CATHOLIC AND DC-ORIENTED CISL, WAS HANDLED IN AN OBLIQUE MANNER AND WITHOUT FORMAL VOTE. SECGEN STORTI, IN HIS OPENING REMARKS, CALLED UPON UNIONS TO REFRAIN FROM TAKING A POSITION ON MERITS OF THE REFERENDUM. ACCORDING STORTI, UNIONS SHOULD DO NO MORE THAN URGE MEMBERS TO VOTE ACCORDING TO THEIR CONSCIENCE.

3. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER UNIONS WILL IN FACT REMAIN NEUTRAL. THE UIL IS CURRENTLY DECIDING ITS REFERENDUM POLICY AND CGIL SECGEN LAMA HAS MADE IT KNOWN THAT HE CONSIDERS THE ISSUE A VALID ONE FOR FULL DISCUSSION BY WORKERS ASSEMBLY (FACTORY DELEGATES AND LOCAL UNION LEADERS) SCHEDULED FOR APRIL

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6 IN RIMINI. EVEN WITHIN THE CISL, TOP LEADERS INCLUDING DEPUTY

SECGEN MACARIO AND METALWORKER LEADER CARNITI HAVE JOINED THE BATTLE AND TAKEN PRO-DIVORCE POSITIONS. FINAL DECISION ON UNION NEUTRALITY WILL BE HAMMERED OUT IN PRE-RIMINI MEETINGS OF THE FEDERATION CGIL, CISL, UIL.

4. CISL INTERNAL PROBLEMS DOMINATED THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SESSION WITH STORTI AND MINORITY LEADER SCALIA EXCHANGING VERBAL SHOTS. A RESOLUTION NOTING THE PROGRESS TOWARD GREATER COHESION IN THE CISL AND CENSURING THE CISL MINORITY FOR ANTAGONISTIC AND "UNDEMOCRATIC" OPPOSITION TACTICS PASSED WITH 22 VOTES IN FAVOR, 3 AGAINST (SARTORI--FARMWORKERS, LEOLINI--TRANSPORT, AND SAPIENZA--SICILY REGION FARMWORKERS) AND 2 ABSTENTIONS (TACCONI--MINORITY MEMBER OF SECRETARIAT AND LAZZERI--REGGIO CALABRIA PROVINCE). SCALIA WAS PRESENT BUT CAST NO VOTE.

5. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING ALSO PASSED WITHOUT OPPOSITION (20 IN FAVOR WITH 5 ABSTENTIONS) A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR SPEEDY RENEWAL OF THE GOVERNMENT/UNION DIALOGUE IN ORDER TO FIND WAYS TO MAINTAIN WORKERS REAL INCOME THREATENED BY RUNAWAY INFLATION. THE CISL PROPOSES TO PRESERVE REAL WAGES THROUGH PRICE AND RENT CONTROLS AS WELL AS MODIFICATION OF NATIONAL COST OF LIVING ESCALATOR CLAUSE (SCALA MOBILE). DOCUMENT IN ADDITIONAL ALLUDED TO NEED FOR GENERALIZED WAGE INCREASES. NEED FOR GOVERNMENT ACTION TO ACHIEVE HEALTH, HOUSING AND OTHER REFORMS ALSO NOTED. VOLPE

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